 Traffic Safety Facts

Number 83

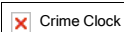
January 1995

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SAVING LIVES AND COMBATING CRIME

Law enforcement agencies across the country are taking steps to address their community's needs in combating crime. Limited personnel, increased requests for services, and rising violent crime rates are common in many communities. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) believes that a strong traffic enforcement program will reduce the daily toll of death and injury on our nation's highways and, at the same time, combat crime as well.

In 1993, 40,115 people died in motor vehicle crashes while 24,530 were victims of homicides. Motor vehicle crashes cost approximately \$137 billion annually compared to \$19 billion each year for victims of personal and household crimes. In the United States, one highway fatality occurs every 13 minutes; one murder occurs every 21 minutes.



Crime Clock

NHTSA believes that traffic enforcement not only saves lives, injuries, and dollars, it also supplements many criminal enforcement activities. NHTSA has prepared a short brochure about traffic enforcement and crime, reporting facts from the Bureau of Justice Services, the FBI, and NHTSA. Twelve law enforcement agencies and state highway safety offices contributed to developing the brochure.

The brochure highlights successful traffic enforcement programs conducted throughout the country. There are statistics, facts, and anecdotal information. It also discusses specific traffic enforcement programs such as:

- Selected Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)
- Aggressive Criminal Enforcement (ACE)
- Drug Interdiction Assistance Program (DIAP)
- Saturation Patrols
- Routine Traffic Enforcement

The brochure can be used by law enforcement executives and elected public officials to show the relationship between traffic enforcement, crime, and public safety. For example, law enforcement officers who arrest drunk or drugged drivers prevent other deaths, injuries and violent crimes. In 1993, 17,461 people died in alcohol-related traffic crashes; 56% of inmates jailed for violent crimes were drinking or using drugs when they committed their crime; and 13% of inmates committed offenses to get money for drugs. This brochure will help show how traffic enforcement can help in the fight against crime.

For a copy of *Saving Lives and Combating Crime*, write to Police Traffic Services, NHTSA, NTS-41, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or send a fax to (202) 366-7721.

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Traffic Tech is a publication to disseminate information about traffic safety programs, including evaluations, innovative programs, and new publications. Feel free to copy it as you wish.

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